are those of a particular author. Others are anthologies in the poems of many writers. The Chinese have developed no lyric or epic poetry.

What we in English would classify under poetry occurs in Chinese under many forms. Ballads have been multitudinous. Much of the text of plays for the theatres is in what we would call verse. Many historical romances, some of which run to great length, are in rhythmic style. Mosaics of characters have been put together in such a fashion that when read in different directions they form poems. The characters contained in the Thousand Character Classic have been arranged into verse by several different authors. There is rhythmic prose which from the Western standpoint is really poetry, and a whole division of literature is made up of poems of irregular lines and of many patterns.

What the Chinese themselves include under *shih*—usually translated as "poetry"—is much more limited. It embraces, however, a number of forms. Some of these, in the so-called "ancient" style, allow a good deal of latitude. Others, in what is denominated the "modern" style—really many centuries old—are more fixed. In poems of the "modern" style the length of line, the arrangement of characters by tones and rhymes, and the parallelism of characters follow strict conventions—although even here many patterns have been used. The "modern" style, for instance, permits verses of four lines of five characters each, of four lines oi seven characters each, of eight lines of five characters each, and of eight lines of seven characters each. In this style characters must be made to fit particular tone patterns—that is to say, only characters of a given tone can be put in a

particular place in a line and must be matched by the tones of the characters in the succeeding line. For this purpose the five tones of *mandarin* are divided into two groups, the first two being called "even" and the other three "uneven." An "even tone" in one line must be countered by an "uneven tone" in the corresponding character in the line with which it is paired. Rhymes must also be observed, a frequent rule being that the final characters of every other line must match. They are regulated by a standard rhyming dictionary, compiled more than a millennium ago, so that, due to changes in pronunciation wrought by the centuries, according to the present pronunciation rhyme may often seem absent. Then, too, an-